



## Conserving All Of Montana's Fish And Wildlife Species

*"A thing is right only when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the community; and the community includes the soil, water, fauna and flora, as well as the people."*  
Aldo Leopold in "A Sand County Almanac"

### The Economic Value of Fish and Wildlife in Montana

- Hunting, fishing and other forms of wildlife-related recreation add more than \$1.113 billion to the Montana economy every year. Hunting, \$422 million; fishing, \$300 million; wildlife viewing, \$391 million. 1
- Wildlife watching is the single most popular outdoors activity among Montana visitors. Of the 9.5 million visitors 2001, 36% participated in wildlife watching.
- From 1996 to 2001, wildlife recreation-related expenditures rose 50%.

### Fish and Wildlife Species Management

- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks implemented a science-based fish and wildlife restoration program in 1941, resulting in healthy populations of more than 80 hunted and fished species. 2

Montana has 12 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act and another 556 fish and wildlife species receiving scant attention and funding to keep them from declining or even evaluate how their populations are doing.

- Of the 556 species, Montana has 60 species of greatest conservation need:
  - 17 Fish—including Yellowstone cutthroat trout and endangered pallid sturgeon
  - 15 Mammals—including lynx, hoary marmot and spotted bat
  - 19 Birds—including burrowing owl and long-billed curlew
  - 5 Reptiles—milk snake, smooth green snake, snapping turtle, spiny softshell turtle and western hognose snake
  - 3 Amphibians—boreal toad, Coeur d'Alene salamander and northern spotted frog
  - 1 Invertebrate—western pearlshell mussel

### Montana Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 3

- The Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy, completed in 2005, is the foundation for the Montana Wildlife Action Plan that identifies the on-the-ground habitat and management projects to keep the 60 species of greatest conservation need from becoming endangered and also benefits the 576 other species in Montana including those we hunt and fish for.
- Scientists, sportsmen and women, businesses, conservationists and other members of the community worked together for two years to develop comprehensive strategies to keep species from becoming endangered.

### State Wildlife Grants

- State Wildlife Grants are annual federal appropriations since 2001 to state, tribal and territorial wildlife agencies to augment funding from hunting and fishing licenses and other federal aid.
- The State Wildlife Grants Program has become the nation's most cost-effective core program to keep wildlife from becoming endangered.
- Since 2001, Montana has received \$6,441,877 million in State Wildlife Grants.

### **2007 Federal Budget**

- If the federal appropriation is raised to the \$85 million level recommended by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Montana would get \$1,348,251 in 2007.
- If the President's 2007 budget request for State Wildlife Grants is passed, Montana would get \$1,168,772.
- If the House bill of \$50 million prevails, Montana's apportionment would drop substantially to \$766,553 for 2007.

### **Montana State Wildlife Grants Contracts 5**

- Small Mammal Inventory as an Indicator of Swift Fox Prey Base--Blackfeet Indian Reservation; \$324,128
- Burbot Status Assessment--western Montana; \$72,075
- Fluvial Arctic Grayling Restoration--southwestern Montana in upper Missouri River Basin; \$249,760
- Coordinated Bird Monitoring--northeastern and western Montana; \$164,650
- Bat Surveys and Conservation Plan--west-central Montana in Seeley-Swan Valley; \$82,445
- Loon Ecology--northwest Montana; \$230,790
- Status and Distribution of Species of Concern--western Montana; \$101,488
- Grizzly Bear Monitoring--western Montana in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem; \$186,473
- Bear Proof Dumpsters--Glacier and Pondera Counties; \$53,400
- Southwest Montana Native Fish Research and Conservation Program--Beaverhead and Madison Counties; \$184,942
- Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog Distribution--South Fork Flathead River Watershed; \$69,268
- Investigation of the Distribution of Sculpin Species--Columbia and Missouri River drainages; \$15,733
- Native Prairie Fish Survey and Inventory--Missouri and Yellowstone River Basins; \$622,724
- Sauger Telemetry--Powder, Tongue and Yellowstone Rivers; \$40,000
- Montana Sauger Genetic Characteristics--Missouri and Yellowstone River Basins; \$74,000
- Coordinated Bird Monitoring--northeastern and western Montana; \$164,650
- Status and Distribution of Sagebrush and Grassland Species--south-central and southeastern Montana; \$100,947
- Prairie Riparian Native Species Study--Missouri and Yellowstone River Basins; \$447,512
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration North-Central Montana--upper Missouri River Basin; \$147,395
- Fort Belknap Strategic Wildlife Management Plan--Blaine and Phillips Counties; \$15,853
- Amphibian and Aquatic Reptile Survey--eastern Montana; \$17,397
- Habitat Use and Quality for Non-Game Shrub-Steppe Birds--Carbon County; \$35,024
- Native Species Creel Census and Paddlefish Monitoring--Fergus and Phillips Counties on the Missouri River; \$42,680
- Development of Regional Prairie Dog Abundance and Distribution Goals--north-central and northeastern Montana; \$28,320
- Birds and Species of Concern Survey in Northeastern Montana--Sheridan, Daniels and Roosevelt Counties; \$174,245
- Missouri River Soft-Shelled Turtle Survey--southeastern Montana in Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam to North Dakota border and lower Yellowstone River; \$74,738
- Investigation of the Distribution of Sculpin Species--Columbia and Missouri River drainages; \$15,733
- Yellowstone Corridor Native Fish--southeastern Montana between Billings and the North Dakota; \$471,940
- Sagebrush/Shrub-Steppe Ecosystem Conservation and Management Incentive Program--statewide; \$467,429
- Fish Conservation Geneticist--statewide; \$308,786
- Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan--statewide; \$875,233
- Wolf Conservation and Management Plan--statewide; \$79,280
- Small Mammal Survey and Inventory--statewide; \$324,128

*The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a coalition of leading conservation organizations and individual grassroots partners, working together to expand access to places to hunt and fish, conserve fish and wildlife and their habitat, and increase funding for conservation and management.*

## Sources of Information

1. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2003. 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. State Reports: AZ, ID, MT, NM, UT, WY. (<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html>)
2. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 2005. Interconnections. Issue #1.
3. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 2005. Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Conservation Strategy. (<http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/cfwcs/default.html>)
4. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 2006. Administrative Report--State Wildlife Grants: Allocation of Funds at Different FY 2007 Funding Levels.
5. Mike Aderholt, Personal Communication. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. (406-453-2549)